DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 403 003 JC 970 078

TITLE	AACC-ACCT Community College Agenda for the 105th Congress.
INSTITUTION	American Association of Community Colleges, Washington, DC.; Association of Community College Trustees, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	97
NOTE	12p.
PUB TYPE	Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Advocacy; Community Colleges; *Educational Finance; *Educational Legislation; Educational Policy; *Federal Aid; *Federal Programs; Labor Force Development; *Political Issues; Politics of Education; Position Papers; Two Year Colleges; Vocational Education
IDENTIFIERS	Congress 105th

ABSTRACT

Focusing on legislation expected to be addressed by the 105th Congress, this booklet sets forth an agenda for the nation's community colleges, developed by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). An introductory section provides background on community colleges, indicating that they serve more than 11 million credit and non-credit students; provide traditional transfer programs, vocational-technical training, community services, and basic skills enhancement; and offer the 105th Congress and the Administration an established, locally-based education and job training system ideal for workforce development. The agenda is then presented, describing the legislative priorities supported by the AACC and AACT related to the following areas: adult education; appropriations for education, including the Pell Grant, Strengthening Institutions (Title III), and Advanced Technology Education programs; priorities for the federal budget; the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act; international education; support for the National Endowment for the Humanities; reauthorization of the National Science Foundation; support for the Corporation for National Service; tax policies, including support for tax credits and benefits for education; technology and communications; veterans issues and support for the Montgomery GI bill; vocational education, highlighting the need to emphasize the role of community colleges; welfare reform; and legislation related to workforce development. (HAA)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 403 003

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

J. Gollattscheck

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

AACC-ACCT COMMUNITY COLLEGE A[illegible] for the 105th CONGRESS

American Association of Community Colleges

Association of Community College Trustees

JC 970 078

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

America's Community Colleges

America's community colleges are regionally accredited, two-year institutions of postsecondary learning. Located in more than 1,000 districts across the nation, community colleges serve more than 11 million credit and non-credit students. Sixty-three percent of all community colleges students enroll part-time, 58 percent are female and 27 percent are minority. The average age of community college students is 29.

Most community colleges offer a full range of education opportunities, including traditional transfer programs, vocational-technical training, community service, and basic skills enhancement. Almost all community colleges share with pride an "open door" philosophy — providing access to all who desire to further their skills and knowledge. But these colleges also share another common tenet: associate degrees and occupational training certificates are awarded only to those candidates who have met rigorous program standards.

Individually, each community college strives to provide its community — urban, suburban, or rural — with relevant higher education and job training opportunities that are high in quality and

low in cost. Collectively, these colleges offer decision makers in the 105th Congress and the Administration an established, locally-based education and job training system that can help our nation's workforce reach its competitive peak.

The federal government provides essential support for community college students and institutions. Through federal grants, loans, and work-study, thousands of individuals who otherwise would never have had the opportunity to participate in higher education are able to attend a community college. Other programs stimulate education and related program improvements in accordance with specific goals. Finally, job training investments enable both workers and the economy at large to remain economically competitive. Community colleges would not be the same without a strong federal presence.

Community colleges are represented nationally by two organizations: the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), which represents college presidents, and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), which represents governing boards. AACC and ACCT are both headquartered in Washington, DC, and work closely together, pursuing a common legislative agenda in the interest of their member colleges.

AACC & ACCT Support the Following Priorities in Legislation Expected To Be Considered By the 105th Congress:

Adult Education

■ Assure that the Adult Education Act is structured to support the substantial role that community colleges play in providing adult basic education, job training, and literacy training.

■ Assure that community colleges have a significant role in the development of state adult education programs supported by the federal government. Maintain community college eligibility for program administration.

Appropriations

■ Provide increases to the Federal Pell Grant Program so that it may provide true access to postsecondary education and training for all students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Other student financial assistance, including grants, loans, and work-study, should be preserved and enhanced to assure opportunities to students to attend college.

■ Support continued funding for the Strengthening Institutions Program, Title III-Part A, which supports institutions with scarce resources and a mission of serving large numbers of minority and needy students.

■ Increase funding for the Advanced Technology Education program at the National Science Foundation, which provides grants for scientific and technical education programs at community colleges.

■ Maintain funding for workforce training programs, especially the Basic State Grants and Tech Prep Program contained in the Carl D. Perkins Act.

Federal Budget

- Establish education and job training as top budget priorities; such spending represents a long-term investment in human capital. Allocate enough money in the overall caps on discretionary spending to allow for increases due to inflation and the rise in enrollment in postsecondary programs.

- Support balancing the federal budget through the enactment of spending priorities that protect education and training programs important to community colleges.

Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization

- Congress should maintain the current structure of the Pell Grant Program, and continue eligibility for remedial education, English-as-a Second Language (ESL), Ability-to-Benefit (ATB), and vocational education students.

- Amend the Title IV "needs analysis" to give single, independent students greater eligibility for student financial aid programs. This would mitigate the impact of the changes made in the HEA Amendments of 1992.

- Support the continuation of direct lending by institutions to students.

- Provide flexibility for colleges to limit student borrowing by exempting from institutional penalties colleges that have high default rates but very few borrowers.

- Assure that accreditation legislation recognizes the governing board and its member trustees as legitimate representatives of the public.

- Retain at the U.S. Department of Education the Community College Liaison, reporting directly to the Secretary of Education for the purposes of giving increased visibility to, and advocacy for, community colleges.

- Continue Title III-Part A, Strengthening Institutions Grant program, and improve institutional access to the program.

International Education

- Provide Congressional funding for international education programs at the undergraduate level that foster global knowledge and mutual understanding, including Title VI of the Higher Education Act and Fulbright Hays 102 (b) program. Fulbright Hays should remain under the administration of the Department of Education.

- Expand community college funding opportunities at agencies with international education and foreign assistance missions (i.e. Agency for International Development, U.S. Information Agency, Department of Defense).

National Endowment for the Humanities

- Retain a vigorous national program, with a greater emphasis on humanities activities conducted by two-year institutions.

National Science Foundation Reauthorization

- Extend the provisions of the Scientific and Advanced Technology Education Act, which authorized the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program. The ATE program awards competitive grants to associate degree-granting institutions to support curriculum development and program improvement in advanced technology education.

National Service

- Support reauthorization of and increased funding for the Corporation for National Service. The Corporation provides support for Learn and Serve America: Higher Education grants that have helped community colleges integrate service learning on their campuses.

Tax Policy

- Make permanent Section 127 to the Internal Revenue Code, which allows individuals to receive up to $5,250 of tax-free, employer-provided educational benefits.

- Support a new, refundable tax credit for college tuition payments. Support tax code changes that will make college more affordable through the deductibility of tuition and student loan interest.

- Create tax incentives that permit corporations to donate to community colleges high technology equipment that enhances teaching and learning capabilities.

■ Pass legislation to exempt classified employees who teach college courses from the overtime pay provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Technology & Communications

■ Support communications legislation that protects higher education from copyright infringement and maintains intellectual property rights.

■ Assure that community colleges have access to discounted rates for technologies that allow them to expand distance learning programs.

■ Assure that students who take courses through distance learning have access to student aid through the Higher Education Act.

Veterans

■ Ensure that benefits for veterans provided under the Montgomery GI bill are sufficient to allow separated service persons to have a full array of college opportunities.

Vocational Education

■ Assure that any reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act and any other federal vocational education incentives include a strong postsecondary element that emphasizes the key role of community colleges.

■ Expand and strengthen the Tech Prep program and improve articulation with other workforce development programs.

Welfare Reform

- Seek modifications to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program to ensure that states provide recipients with education and job training options to enable them to complete full programs at community colleges.

Workforce Development Legislation

- Ensure that any workforce legislation recognizes the essential role that community colleges play in economic development through the extensive training they provide for business and industry.

- Ensure community college representation on boards designed to plan, oversee, or coordinate workforce development programs.

David Pierce, President
David Baime, Director of Government Relations
Dave Buonora, Legislative Associate
Ashley Giglio, Legislative Associate
Ray Taylor, President
J. Noah Brown, Director of Federal Relations
Stephanie Gresecke, Legislative Assistant

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

[redacted]

AACC

American Association of Community Colleges
One Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036
202/728-0200

Association of Community College Trustees
1740 "N" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202/775-4667

[redacted]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE